

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data transfer apparatus for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

5 detection means for detecting a maximum value in the data group as a transfer object; and

 specifying means for specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position among bits constructing the maximum value detected by said detection means,

10 wherein a bit in a position higher than said highest-order bit position specified by said specifying means is omitted from processing by said predetermined processing means.

15 2. A data transfer apparatus for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

 calculation means for performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred; and

20 specifying means for specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the logical OR calculation by said calculation means,

 wherein a bit in a position higher than said
25 highest-order bit position specified by said specifying means is omitted from processing by said predetermined processing means.

3. A data transfer apparatus for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

- 5 calculation means for performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred; and specifying means for specifying a non-zero lowest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the logical OR calculation by said calculation means,
- 10 wherein a bit in a position lower than said lowest-order bit position specified by said specifying means is omitted from processing by said predetermined processing means.

- 15 4. A data transfer apparatus for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

- calculation means for performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred; and
- 20 specifying means for specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position and a non-zero lowest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the logical OR calculation by said calculation means,
- wherein a bit in a position lower than said
- 25 lowest-order bit position and a bit in a position higher than said highest-order bit position specified by said specifying means are omitted from processing by said

predetermined processing means.

5 5. The data transfer apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said predetermined processing means is a coding
processor circuit.

wherein said predetermined processing means is a coding processor circuit.

5 processor circuit.

6. The data transfer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data transfer apparatus includes a DMA circuit.

wherein said data transfer apparatus includes a DMA circuit.

circuit.

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7. The data transfer apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said data group includes pixel data or transform
coefficients generated by transform coding on the pixel
data.

wherein said data group includes pixel data or transform coefficients generated by transform coding on the pixel data.

coefficients generated by transform coding on the pixel data.

data.

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8. A data transfer method for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

processing means, comprising:

a detection step of detecting a maximum value in

20 the data group as a transfer object; and

a specifying step of specifying a non-zero

highest-order bit position among bits constructing the maximum value detected at said detection step,

maximum value detected at said detection step,

wherein a bit in a position higher than said

25 highest-order bit position specified at said specifying
step is omitted from processing by said predetermined
processing means.

step is omitted from processing by said predetermined processing means.

processing means.

11. A data transfer method for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

- 5 a calculation step of performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred; and
 a specifying step of specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position and a non-zero lowest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the
10 logical OR calculation at said calculation step,
 wherein a bit in a position lower than said lowest-order bit position and a bit in a position higher than said highest-order bit position specified at said specifying step are omitted from processing by said
15 predetermined processing means.

12. The data transfer method according to claim 8, wherein said data transfer method includes a data transfer method in a DMA circuit.